

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed October 11, 2002. Claims 1-3, 10-17, 19 and 28-35 were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Dickman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,091,409). Claims 1-9, 16-27, 31, 32 and 34 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Viswanathan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,332) in view of Pallmann (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,684).

§ 102 (e) Rejection in View of Dickman et al.

The Dickman patent relates to a method for creating Internet shortcuts. The Dickman patent teaches a facility for encapsulating location information, such as a URL for a resource, into an Internet shortcut icon which may appear on the computer desktop.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable over the Dickman et al. reference. As amended, claim 1 of the present application recites as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for enabling access to one or more data sources or targets in a computer system, comprising:
 - automatically determining one or more data sources or targets connected to the computer;
 - automatically generating one or more URLs for each of the data sources or targets;
 - wherein each of the URLs is useable for reading data from the respective data source or writing data to the respective data target.

Thus, as amended, claim 1 recites a method for automatically determining one or more data sources or targets connected to the computer and automatically generating one or more URLs for each of the data sources or targets.

Applicant respectfully submits that Dickman teaches away from the present claims. More specifically, Dickman teaches that the user is required to manually determine a desired data source and manually type in a URL for the data source. After manual entry of the URL, the user may then select an option for creation of an Internet shortcut. However, as noted above, determining the document and generating the URL for the Internet shortcut are performed manually by the user. Dickman teaches various

options for creating an Internet shortcut. However, each of these options involves the user manually specifying a URL for the document for which the Internet shortcut is desired. For example, Applicant refers to the Dickman Patent at column 6 beginning at line 50. Here, the '409 Patent teaches that the user must launch Internet Explorer and manually type in the URL for the document in a text box of the Internet Explorer program to open the document. Once the user has manually specified the URL and the document has been opened, the Dickman Patent teaches various ways the user can select an option for creating a shortcut to the opened document. Once the user selects the option to create the Internet shortcut, the Dickman Patent teaches various programmatic approaches for creating this Internet shortcut automatically or programmatically. Thus, while the Dickman Patent may teach automatic creation of an Internet shortcut, the Dickman Patent also explicitly teaches that the determination of the data source and the generation of the URL is required to be performed manually by the user.

Applicant notes that the steps of "automatically determining" and "automatically generating" in claim 1 of the present application refer to operations that are performed programmatically, i.e., by software executing on the computer system, as opposed to operations that are performed manually by the user. One embodiment of the present invention anticipates a method whereby a software program, e.g., a "URL Generation Manager" automatically determines the data sources or targets connected to the computer and automatically (programmatically) generates URLs for each of these data sources or targets. In contrast, the '409 Patent teaches manual creation of the URL followed by selection of an option to create an Internet shortcut icon. The '409 Patent simply does not teach a program or programmatic method that determines data sources or targets connected to a computer and programmatically generates URLs for each of these data sources or targets. In fact, in the system taught in the '409 Patent, in order for the user to create an Internet shortcut for each of a plurality of data sources connected to a computer, the user would be required to know what those data sources are, and the specific URLs for these data sources. The user is further required to manually enter those URLs into a web browser to bring up the appropriate document. Only after each of the above steps would the system be able to create an Internet shortcut icon for that URL.

With respect to the step of “automatically generating one or more URLs for each of the data sources or targets” the Office Action refers to column 10 lines 63-65 of Dickman. This cited portion of Dickman merely mentions that “Internet shortcuts may be dragged and dropped.” However, once an Internet shortcut has been created, the URL has already been generated (manually by the user), and merely stored in this shortcut object, that is represented by an ICON on the display. Thus, this cited portion of Dickman at most merely refers to user manipulation of a stored URL, configured in an Internet shortcut format, and does not teach or suggest any type of automatic generation of a URL.

With respect to claim 2, claim 2 has been amended to recite “wherein said data sources and targets include addressable data sources and targets of a hardware device physically coupled to the computer system.” Applicant notes that this limitation is not taught or suggested in the Dickman reference. More specifically, Dickman does not teach any type of method for automatically determining a hardware device coupled to the computer system and then automatically generating a URL for this hardware device.

Thus, Applicant submits that the present claims are allowable over the Dickman reference.

§ 103 Rejection over Viswanathan in view of Pallman

The Viswanathan reference relates to a method for rendering devices on a cluster globally visible. The Office Action acknowledges that Viswanathan does not explicitly disclose the use of URLs to access the sources and targets. The Office Action relies on the Pallman reference as teaching that “using URLs for a similar access system is well known in the art”. Applicant respectfully submits that the Viswanathan and Pallman references relate to different non-analogous fields, and that it would not be obvious to combine the references as proposed by the Examiner. The Viswanathan reference relates to computer clusters, while the Pallman reference relates generally to data delivery and communication. Applicant submits that there is absolutely no teaching or suggestion to combine the references as proposed by the Examiner.

Applicant notes that the term URL used in the present specification and claims (and in Patent No. 6,370,569) is intended to have the full breadth of its ordinary meaning.

One characteristic of URLs is that a URL generally inherently specifies an access method, such as http, ftp, etc. The Viswanathan reference actually teaches away from any proposed combination with Pallman, in that the cluster system in Viswanathan has a global file system shared by all of the devices. Given the use of this global file system in the cluster, a user of the system would have no need to consider use of URLs or other identifiers which inherently specify an access method. Thus, Applicant submits that the Viswanathan reference actually teaches away from any combination with Pallman.

Thus, Applicant submits that the present claims are allowable over the Viswanathan and Pallman references.

Dependent Claims

Applicant submits that that various of the dependent claims further recited allowable subject matter that is not taught or suggested in the cited references.

CONCLUSION

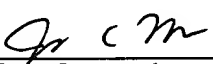
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Conley, Rose, & Tayon, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-32801/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Check in the amount of \$ for fees ().
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Conley, Rose & Tayon, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 476-1400
Date: 3/11/2003